

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Lowell Turns Down Bid to White House

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert Lowell, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, has rejected an invitation to a White House arts festival June 14 because of what he termed his "dismay and distrust" of American foreign policy.

Lowell, 48, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1947. He made public yesterday a letter to President Johnson.

Lowell said he was reversing an earlier decision to participate because "every serious artist knows that he cannot enjoy public celebration without making subtle public commitments."

Two other writers, Saul Bellow and John Hersey, said they would attend even though they, too, disagree with U.S. foreign policy. Bellow is the author of the best-seller, "Herzog." Hersey won the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for the novel, "A Bell for Adano."

The festival is intended to honor and encourage the arts in the United States.



Robert Lowell